

# Summer program aims to cultivate next generation of physicians, scientists

*By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson  
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Hypertension, Hepatitis C, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, are just some of the conditions and diseases that high school and college students learned about this summer at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU).

The Science, Service, Medicine, and Mentoring Summer Program also known as S2M2 was put together by USU's Office of Recruitment and Diversity. More than 40 students and mentors got an up-close and personal look at military medicine.



*Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson*

**Sixteen year olds Minhae Shim (left) and Timothy Maher were two of the students who participated in USU's Science, Service, Medicine, and Mentoring (S2M2) Summer Program. Minhae is a student at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, and Timothy is a student at The Heights. The two students researched and put together a poster explaining Thyroid Diseases as part of their week-long summer program. Both are interested in pursuing medical degrees upon completion of high school.**

The mission of the S2M2 program is to encourage, nurture, and enhance the commitment to science and medicine in a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment for groups of diverse high school students.

This was done by placing the students in a week-long program where they fulfilled several different objectives such as: describing two common diseases of the eye;

demonstrating proper technique in surgical scrubbing; describing two aspects of living with a disability; and being able to describe two important aspects in the care of laboratory animals.

“This whole week has been a great experience,” said Tamara Williams, an eleventh grader at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. “I’m definitely planning to attend medical school and this program has taught us a lot about what to expect.”

Tamara’s mother Pam Williams, said she couldn’t be happier for her daughter to have this opportunity, “She’s been really excited about this program. She’s a great student, very consistent, and I think this is just what she needed.”

Several of the students expressed how much they enjoyed the program. What they got out of it is something they’ll use in the near future when making their decisions to pursue careers in science.

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